

THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM OF ART
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Cleveland Museum of Art Names Robert P. Bergman To Succeed Evan H. Turner

Robert P. Bergman was today named the next Director of The Cleveland Museum of Art, to succeed Evan Hopkins Turner on July 1, 1993. Dr. Bergman has been Director of the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland, since 1981.

The announcement was made by Michael Sherwin, President of the Board of Trustees of The Cleveland Museum of Art. Mr. Sherwin said, "The search committee's challenge was to find the best candidate who possessed the skills to maintain The Cleveland Museum of Art as a world-class institution. Bob Bergman is that candidate. He is a recognized scholar, ardent educator, sound administrator, and energetic leader. Bob's accomplishments at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore earned an A+ and we look forward to working with him in Cleveland."

Dr. Bergman, who is forty-seven years old, received his BA from Rutgers University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was named a Henry Rutgers Scholar. He received the MFA and Ph.D. from Princeton University; while studying at Princeton, he was a Fulbright Fellow in Rome and a Junior Fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington, D.C. He began his teaching career as a visiting instructor at Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania, the oldest historically Black college in the United States; he then spent a year at the University of Rochester and a decade at Princeton and at Harvard, where he was also director of graduate programs in Fine Arts. Since 1981, he has served on the faculty of The Johns Hopkins University.

As Director of the Walters Art Gallery, Dr. Bergman led a complete renovation of the original Gallery building, acquisition and renovation of a contiguous building to serve as the Museum of Asian Art, and the development of major loan exhibitions and scholarly catalogues. Under his leadership, the endowment tripled, a deficit was erased, annual giving and membership rose dramatically, and in 1989 the Walters was named Baltimore's best managed cultural institution. Dr. Bergman has been active in civic affairs in Baltimore and Maryland, most recently serving as one of four chairs of the African/African-American Curriculum Task Force of the Baltimore City public schools.

While Dr. Bergman is most widely known as an effective museum director, his research and writing in Byzantine and early medieval Italian art are central to his life and work as an art historian. He is the author of *The Salerno Ivories. Ars Sacra from Medieval Amalfi* (Harvard University Press, 1980) and of two books in preparation: *Santa Maria de Olearia: storia, architettura, pittura* (with A. Cerenza) and *Medieval Amalfi: Urbanism, Architecture and the Arts on the Mediterranean Frontier*. He has written numerous articles--on Greek manuscripts, Romanesque sculpture, and Early Christian ivories, among other subjects--of which the most recent is "Byzantine Influence and Private Patronage in a Newly Discovered Medieval Church in Amalfi: S. Michele Arcangelo in Pogerola," in *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (Vol. L, No. 4, December 1991).

Dr. Bergman is president of the Association of Art Museum Directors, the professional organization of the directors of the nation's 158 largest art museums, and chairman of the board of the American Arts Alliance, the major national advocacy coalition representing art museums, symphony orchestras, theater and ballet and opera companies, and presenting organizations. He has served or is serving on the board of the International Center for Medieval Art and on panels and advisory groups for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American

Association of Museums. His professional memberships include: Medieval Academy of America, Society of Architectural Historians, United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies, and Society of Fellows, American Academy in Rome. He has acted as an advisory editor to Princeton University Press, University of Chicago Press, *Art Bulletin*, *Transactions of the American Philological Association*, Dumbarton Oaks Publications, *Gesta*, Getty Foundation, and Medieval Academy of America.

In a recent article on art museums in the United States, titled "Reasons to Celebrate Our Peculiarly American Traditions," Dr. Bergman noted that United States museums, in contrast to European museums, were most often created "through civic will or private philanthropy as educational institutions intended to serve the needs of our citizenry" (*Museum News*, September/October 1990). As the Director of Cleveland's art museum, Dr. Bergman will assume the leadership of a leading American museum founded by private philanthropy to serve the public good. He will head a curatorial and education staff respected for intellectual discipline and imaginative work and will oversee the Museum's permanent collections, which span all cultures and periods and have special strength in the arts of medieval Europe and of Asia. Dr. Bergman will be the fifth director of The Cleveland Museum of Art since it opened to the public in 1916. His predecessors have been Frederic A. Whiting (1913-1930), William M. Milliken (1930-1958), Sherman E. Lee (1958-1983), and Evan Hopkins Turner.

Dr. Turner became Director in 1983, intending to remain in the post through completion of the Museum's 75th anniversary celebrations. Recognizing that the Museum's substantial endowment would no longer be sufficient to satisfy its long-standing commitments, Dr. Turner created the Development Department as it exists today to meet the new financial challenges. He spearheaded the reinstallations of the entire European and American collections, beginning with the 19th- and 20th-century galleries in 1984, and, more recently, the Renaissance and

Baroque holdings in the great galleries of the original 1916 Museum building. During his tenure, important additions were made to the rich and comprehensive permanent collections, the African galleries were reinstalled, and the photography holdings were considerably developed. Moreover, attendance reached new highs during special exhibitions, and membership doubled, from 9,000 to nearly 18,000 members.

The most recent highlight of Dr. Turner's tenure has been the celebration of the Museum's 75th anniversary with significant international loan exhibitions and community events. Board President Michael Sherwin said, "Evan's contributions to our Museum cannot be overstated. Meaningful additions to the collection, landmark exhibitions, and major gallery renovations--he has done them all well. I will best remember him, however, for making the Museum feel so welcoming to the Greater Cleveland community, and the capstone to that effort had to be the magnificent opening 75th anniversary weekend."

In accepting the appointment, Dr. Bergman said: "For a scholar-director like me, an invitation to lead The Cleveland Museum of Art at this exciting point in time presents an irresistible opportunity. The combination of one of our nation's premier collections, a professional and support staff of formidable ability and accomplishment, an enlightened Board of Trustees, and a truly supportive community makes Cleveland's one of the nation's most enviable art museums. My family and I are looking forward to our life in Cleveland."

Robert Bergman married Marcelle (Marcie) Posnak, of Bayonne, New Jersey--where he was also born, on May 17, 1945--on June 30, 1971. They have a daughter, Maggie, age eight.

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